

Taylorsville Public Safety Committee
&
T.A.C.T.
(Taylorsville Action Community Team)

BACKGROUND

The Taylorsville city council founded the Public Safety Committee, along with several other service committees, shortly after the city's founding in 1996. Committee members are community volunteers who submit a brief application and are approved by the city council. A city council member advises the committee.

TACT resulted from efforts in Taylorsville in 2000 by the Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC), a program funded via grants from the federal Department of Justice. NAC's work within Taylorsville called for a group of community leaders and volunteers to lead efforts within the community to curb violence, educate, and enhance community values. TACT became that group and worked independently until the city acted in 2002 to combine TACT with the Public Safety Committee.

MISSION

Pub Saf - To empower Taylorsville City officials and citizens in crime prevention and safety through gathering and sharing information, facilitating citizen groups, and coordinating official and volunteer efforts.

TACT - To educate and build awareness that promotes social well being, health and wellness for the citizens of Taylorsville

Pub Saf/TACT - To educate and build awareness that promotes social well being for the citizens of Taylorsville through gathering and sharing information, facilitating citizen groups, and coordinating official and volunteer efforts.

CURRENT AREAS OF EMPHASIS

HOUSE NUMBERING

SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS

SIDEWALK SAFETY

ANNUAL YOUTH FUN AND SAFETY FAIR

GANG PREVENTION

DRUG FACTS BOOKLET

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

MOBILE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

PAST PROJECTS

1996

Organized and trained mobile neighborhood watch groups
Investigated graffiti removal
Established the guidance and structure for the Taylorsville justice court
Investigated ordinances dealing with junk cars, curbing graffiti, and gang prevention and made proposals to the city council
Met with Taylorsville High students to gauge their concerns for the community and school and solicit their ideas on what needs to be done regarding gangs
Investigated neighborhood watch organizations in nearby cities. Met with 2 organizations and learned how they were organized and how they dealt with graffiti

1997

Researched crime free multi-housing options for the city council
T-Dayz booth

1998

Facilitated the training of several mediators in Taylorsville to serve in a victim/offender mediation effort
Helped organize the Peer Court

1999

Performed telephone survey for the Sheriff's dept. research project on curtailing auto thefts
Investigated the "3 Steps" community response program that is successfully established in the Orem - Provo area
Porch light program. Surveyed area, publicized the use of porch lights through churches, school programs, flyers, and scouts, then re-surveyed the area

2000

TACT organized with the help of the Neighborhood Action Coalition and began efforts on impacting gang and drug issues in Taylorsville
Gang and drug citizen task forces organized

2001

Task forced implement their community programs

2002

The committee organized a city wide search for Elizabeth Smart. The city was divided into 22 search zones, and volunteer teams were provided detailed instructions, maps, and search logs. The search was completed on June 29th. All of the organization materials were retained for possible future searches.

HOUSE NUMBERING

GOAL - To aid in the dispatch of emergency services through improved house numbering throughout the city.

ACTIONS - Volunteers or groups are invited to help accomplish this goal. Using city instructions and with the permission of property owners, volunteers are painting house numbers on porch steps or curbs. The 4" high numbers painted in contrasting colors are more easily seen by emergency personnel. See complete instructions below.

TO VOLUNTEER - Sign up at the city offices. The city has a map showing already completed areas. You will be asked to choose an area to complete and report back when you are done so the city map can be updated. At this point, volunteers must provide their own paints and stencils (paint is about \$5 a can and disposable stencils are around \$3)

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS (Also available at the city offices)

House Numbering Project Volunteer Instructions

Thank you for your interest in serving Taylorsville City by participating in the City's House Numbering Project. Emergency teams have expressed appreciation over this city wide effort to make the identification of houses an easier task when time is critical. Below are instructions that will help you in making this service project a success.

1. Remember you MUST have the property owner's permission to paint a house number on his steps or curb.
2. Preparation for the project
 - a. Supplies and stencils may be available from the city - ask at the city offices.
 - b. Determine how many homes you will likely be painting the house numbers for, and buy the needed supplies. 60 homes generally requires 1 can of black paint and 2 cans of white, reflective, paint. You will also need some coarse sandpaper.
 - c. Prepare or buy your stencils. The black numbers should be 4" high and the white background should be a 5" high rectangle. The number stencils can be purchased at local hardware stores, but you will likely have to make the rectangle stencil.
 - d. If this is a boy scout project, contact the S.L. County Fire Department at 743-7230 and they will assign an inspector who is authorized to pass of eagle projects and will work with you and inspect your work. We recommend you use your troop boundary to define the area you will work in.
 - e. If this is not a scout project, then contact Tony Henderson of the Safety Committee at 968-7139
3. Painting the house numbers
 - a. Contact each property owner and explain why you are performing this community service of painting legible house numbers. Some reasons to mention are:
 - i. Many existing house numbers are hard to find or see in the dark
 - ii. Fire, police, and medical personnel often have a hard time finding the addresses they have been sent to, especially at night so valuable time is often wasted as rescue workers struggle to read addresses
 - b. Obtain permission to paint the house number

- i. 1st choice would be on a step leading to the front door if it is visible from the street. 2nd choice would be on the curb with the number as close to the front door as possible.
 - c. If you are painting over an existing number, sand the paint to remove any flaking paint.
 - d. Paint the white rectangle, neatly aligning it with the concrete your painting on. Allow it to dry.
 - e. Center the number stencil within the white rectangle, and paint the black numbers.
 - f. Indicate on your map that you have completed that house.
 - 4. Finishing the Project
 - a. Contact SLCo. Fire Dept. or Tony Henderson to certify your project as complete.
- Thank you for your public service, making our community a little better place.

SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS

GOAL - Improve student safety by increasing driver awareness of school crossings

ACTIONS - Principally through the efforts of Ann Bagley, the committee facilitated placing new, brighter school crossing signs at all school zones in Taylorsville. This project is complete.

SIDEWALK SAFETY

GOALS - Remove physical hazards from the city's sidewalks

ACTIONS - Volunteers survey sidewalks using a standard form noting type and extent of the hazard (sunken and raised sidewalks are the most frequent hazards noted). The information is turned into the city and entered into the computerized tracking system for further action by the city. Several areas in the city have already been surveyed and entered into the city's computerized system.

TO VOLUNTEER - Contact Tony Henderson at 968-7139 for details and areas needing to be surveyed.

ANNUAL YOUTH FUN AND SAFETY FAIR

GOALS - Increase youth awareness of health and safety issues.

ACTIONS - In cooperation with the Healthy Taylorsville committee, the Public Safety committee organizes a youth fair each fall with fun activities, prizes, and helpful information for youth and their parents. For three or four years the fair has taken place in the fall, but in 2004, the committee combined the fair with the city's Taylorville Dayzz celebration, holding the event on Friday evening. For 2005, the fair is scheduled to be held on Friday, June 24th.

TO VOLUNTEER - Contact Tony Henderson at 968-7139 to help run the youth fair or reserve a public service booth.

GANG PREVENTION

GOALS - Increase community awareness of gangs. Steer Taylorsville youth away from gang involvement through education, training, and wholesome activities.

ACTIONS - The committee has taken on several projects in this area:

1) Intervention in Taylorsville elementary schools. Using funds received from an NAC grant, the committee worked with area elementary schools to introduce programs of the schools' choice to increase students' skills in areas that would decrease the likelihood of future gang activity. The interventions took place in the 2002/3 school year and are planned for the 2003/4 school year. See School Partnerships for details.

2) Using NAC funds, the committee purchased computer equipment and a projector to facilitate SL Co sheriff dept in training Junior High students on gang awareness.

3) The committee worked with the metro gang unit to produce a high school level intervention aimed at educating students, educators, and the community on gangs. The event took place on Sept 13, 2003 and featured detailed information on gangs and drugs in the Salt Lake valley area. Teachers attending the workshop received certification credits for the session. A second community seminar was held in May 0f 2004, providing additional information to educators and citizens.

DRUG FACTS BOOKLET

GOAL - Increase parents' awareness of drugs - what they look like, names, uses, dangers, etc. so they can better combat the drug problem at home and in the community.

ACTIONS - In 2002, the committee, principally due to the efforts of Sherilyn Mills, prepared a fully illustrated booklet covering all major drugs being abused at the time. Using NAC grant funds, the committee printed about 5000 copies of the booklet and distributed them throughout the community at various venues. The print masters were made available to other communities who further printed and distributed this useful booklet.

The booklet will be available on the city web site at a future date. Contact the city offices for any remaining copies of the booklet.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

GOALS - To work with schools in the Taylorsville area in addressing problems such as literacy, asocial behavior, violence, gangs, etc.

ACTIONS - The committee has taken on several projects in this area:

Intervention in Taylorsville elementary schools. Using funds received from an NAC grant, the committee worked with area elementary schools to introduce programs of the schools' choice to increase students' skills in areas that would decrease the likelihood of future gang activity. The interventions took place in the 2002/3 school year and are planned for the 2003/4 school year.

In 2002/3, the following programs were financed at Taylorsville schools, with each school receiving about \$1000 in grant money:

<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>
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Arcadia	- Literacy as a Guide for Life
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Bennion	- Second Step (Communication and anger management skills)
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Fremont	- Second Step
Plymouth	- Structured Recess
Calvin Smith	- Early Steps
Taylorsville	- Second Step
Truman	- Second Step
Vista	- Steps to Respect (A bully proofing program)
Westbrook	- Accelerated Reading
Fox Hills	- Drug Prevention program (implemented in 2003/4)

In 2003/4, the following programs were executed at Taylorsville schools with each school receiving about \$1000.

<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>
Arcadia	- Reading Extended to the Home (Parent and child literacy program)
Bennion	-
Fremont	- Steps to Respect (Materials and training)
Plymouth	-
Calvin Smith	- Second Step coordinator to implement the program
Taylorsville	- Hire a social worker to help implement existing anti violence programs
Truman	-
Vista	- Structured Recess
Westbrook	- Structured Recess
Fox Hills	- Structured Recess
Bennion Jr. High	- Mentoring of at risk students
Eisenhower Jr. High	- After school program

2) Using NAC funds, the committee purchased computer equipment and a projector to facilitate SL Co sheriff dept in training Junior High students on gang awareness.

3) The committee worked with the metro gang unit and Granite District to produce a high school level intervention aimed at educating students, educators, and the community on gangs. The event took place on Sept 13, 2003 and featured detailed information on gangs and drugs in the Salt Lake valley area. Teachers attending the workshop received certification credits for the session.

MOBILE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

GOAL - To assist community groups in organizing mobile watch groups in their areas.

ACTIONS - In 2002, the committee used NAC funds to purchase 6 radios for use by local neighborhood watch groups. At the same time, the committee purchased one year of repeater service for the radios. These radios are high quality and allow citizen patrols to communicate with each other and the sheriff's department with greater reliability.

TO VOLUNTEER -

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

GOAL - To assist community groups in organizing neighborhood watch groups in their areas.

ACTIONS -

TO VOLUNTEER -

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

GOALS - Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is an all-risk, all-hazard training. This valuable program is designed to help you protect yourself, your family, your neighbors and your neighborhood in an emergency situation.

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger. In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- manage utilities and put out small fires,
- treat the three medical killers by opening airways,
- controlling bleeding, and treating for shock,
- provide basic medical aid,
- search for and rescue victims safely,
- organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective,
- and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

ACTIONS - Two members of the Public Safety Committee accepted the charge to organize CERT within Taylorsville. Together with an advisor from the Salt Lake County Fire Department, they have begun the task to divide the city into CERT districts, neighborhoods, and teams. Additional tasks being performed are: contacting individuals within the city who are already CERT trained, teach the CERT course at the City offices, locate/setup equipment caches for CERT teams, conduct drills and team competitions.